Matros
I-1 Asam. Const.

Octo. 25, 1934
8:10 p. m.

APERTURA DE LA SESION

Se abre la sesion a las 5:10 p. m., ocupando el estrado el Presidente, Hon. Claro M. Recto.

EL PRESIDENTE. Se abre la sesion.

DISPENSACION DE LA LECTURA DE LA LISTA Y DEL ACTA

MR. GRAFILO. Mr. Presidente.

SR. PRESIDENTE . Señor Delêgado.

MR. GRAFILO. I moved that the roll call and the reading of the minutos de dispensed with.

SR. PRESIDENTE. Si no hay objecion, asi se acuerda.

(No hubo objecion.)

Leanse lso ducumentos recibidos.

EL SECRETARIO, leydno;

(Insertense.)

MR. BOCAR. Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT. The gentleman fromSamar.

MR. BOCAR. Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT. The gentleman fromSamr.

MR. BOCAR. Mr. President,the leader of the negative side is absent this afternoon and the last speaker last night spoke for the affirmative side. The arrangement I have had with the leader of the negative side is that it will be MM my turn this afternoon to opent he debate. I ask, therefore, the Chair to give me seven minutes to speak.

THE PRESIDENT. The gentleman from Samar can proceed.

MR. BOCAR. Mr. President and gentlemen of the Convention. Before proceeding, I would like to make a preliminary remark It has been the practice ~~of~~ to say our arugments in the form of speech. I have found it convenient to deviate from

the mage and I am not goint go make a speech. I have written here a short poem which I should like to present for your own consideration, in support of suffrage. I have called thhis, "Rhyme for Woman Suffrage." I shallbegin:

1. Wjen we draft the Constitution
Gentlemen of the Convention,
We must insert a provision,
On Womanis emancipation;

2. This woman suffrage questions,
Affects half our populnations,
And it's up to this Convention,
To make a wise decision

3. Our women are qualified,
That much cannot be denied;
Tho as yet they have not tried,
Ii think they can be relied;

4. We cannot dery that right,
They will insist and they will fight,
Tho we oppose with all our might,
We will yield to be polite.

5. The Legislature gave them suffrage,
That's a conv enant and a pledge,
Which I think must be respected,
In the Constitution inserted.

6. That That Law was well considered
By the Legislature studied,
And it cannot now be said,
That it was by mistake emitted;

7. Of course the Legislature,
I just a body inferior,
It's acts this body can ignore,
Because in power we're superior;

8. But there is no valid reason,
To justify this Convention,
In preventing the operation,
Of that suffrage Legislation;

9. Women have not even enjoyed,
The right, bylaw, them granted;
And now it is contemplated,
To kill the law before it's' tried;

10. There is nothing incompatible,
With women's duties and the poll,
It will even be honorable,
That women takes political role;

11. Talk you of their capacity?
Then woman have that quality;
Ask you of their unity?
They answer you, town and city;

12. Tell me not it will be costly,
That the government lacks money;
If money be spent them wisely,
That's the price of democracy;

13. Our politics is dirty,
Balck with corruption so nasty,
Corrupt men elected thru money,
Rich candidates by bribery;

14. When women vote these cannot be,
They will sweep the frauds away;
For women willvote honestly,
For conviction not for money;

15. Arguments have been presented,
That the homes will be neglected,
That family harmony destroyed,
And our women polluted;

16. These are all imaginary,
False alarm by the enemy,
Election is not everyday,
Who are these prophets anyway?

17. Let us have more faith gentlemen,
In the goodness of our women;
They are not going to cause ruin,
When their suffrage is given;

18. They sayonly women in Manila,
Are noisy in this campaña;
That the women provincianas,
Are not really sufragistas,

2008

19. I don't blame the city women,
For their activities and campign;
On the other hand I praise them,
Leaders,pioneers, feminine!

20. .....Don't blame the indifference
.....The woman in the province
Interest is useless gentlemen,
When suffrage is denied to them;

21. For what good is for women?
If officials be good or bad men?
When they cannot vote for those chosen--
So indifferent they remain;

22. But free the women and make them vote,
Give them suffrage and you'll note
The interest and the time they'll devote,
To politics government or both;

23. They say women's vote not needed yet,
Because they'll tend to duplicate,
That t'will be hard on the candidate,
To spend more money for cigarette;

24. If women is vote will duplicate
we should not worry nor regret;
For more votes for a candidate,
Means his popularity is great;

2009

25. The politicians need not fear,
That the women will be sucker,
It is of men they shoud despair,
They know this well and should beware.

26. We are building a new nation,
With justice as foundation;
But the men are in dominion,
And the women in oblivion;

27. This is a democracy,
Of citizens equal and free;
But men have monopoly,
and women have nothing to say;

28. This is democracy,
Not dictatorship nor monarchy;
To insure the nation's safety,
There must be true equality;

29. In the affairs of government,
All have parts as all are meant;
There can be no side agreement
On this important point;

30. Why just give women the duty?
And deny them authority?
Is ther justice, equality?
Gentlemen please answer me!

31 All the problems of the nation,
The duties and obligations,
Are not borne by men alone,
But with women in addition;

32. What the women ask is justice,
Not to get from men the office;
Don't you gentlemen realize?
That their demand is fair and wise?

33/ Suffrage is not question of sex,
Capacity should be the index;
Son in our national politics,
Men and women should freely mix;

34 Politics is not very hard,
That the women should be barred;
Their duties it will not retard,
So why not give them this award.

35. Let us be fair and just gentlemen,
Decide this question as statesmen;
With justice, wisdon, vision keen,
That glory in our work be seen;

36 There's a plan to compromise,
A plebiscite to be devised,
To determine the bulk and size,
of the women pros and antis;

37 But gentlemen this is not wise,
To favor this compromise,
You know it is cowardice,
To evade duty and deny justice;

38. Why fear responsibility?
Of facing the question squarely?
If you are a pro or an anti,
Better be frank that 's more manly!

39. Delegates, comrades, countrymen,
Consider, pity and the women!
What is their fault, what is their sin?
That we must be cruel and not help them!

40. Y You who are all chivalous,
Gallant comrades, compañeros!
Patriotic Delegados!
Help the women and be heroes!

41. Don't you hear their voices pleading?
Don't you feel their hearts are throbbing?
Don't you know that they are trusting?
That we grant them the right of voting?

42. Who among us would be selfish?
And threat women with injustice?
Who among us don't realize?
That women's suffrage is wise?

43 The women we love as wives,
Mothers, sweethearts, relatives,
In their bosoms the hope yet lives,
That justice to them this body gives;

44. An And from the Bible it is said,
More joy to give than to receive;
And Shakespeare to this had added;
That mercy is virtues blessed;

45. So I plead for justice and mercy,
For the women of our country;
I plead for true equality,
Because we are a democracy;

46. If not for justice then for pity,
For their helplessness, let it be;
Begging mercy, pity, charity,
Oh men, listen, to you they pray!

MR. VINZONS. Mr. President, will the gentleman yield to just one question?

THE PRESIDENT. The delegate from Samar may answer if he so desires.

MR. BOCAR. With pleasure if I have time.

MR. VINZONS. Is it the gentleman's conviction
That by the grant of this Convention,
Of equal rights decision
To women of the nation
Will free politics of abomination?

MR. BOCAR. In answer to the question of the gentleman from Camarines, I repeat two stanzas from the poem I have just read.

Our politics is dirty,
Balck with corruptions so nasty,
Corrupt men elected thru money,
Rich candidates by bribery;
Now where is women come in:
When women vote these cannot be,
They will sweep the frauds away;
For women will vite honestly,
For Conviction not for money,

MR. VINSONS. If that is the gentleman's opinion, I am of the same conviction.

SR. ALTAVAS. Señor Presidente.

SR. PRESIDENTE. Señor Delegado.

SR. ALTAVAS. Del lado de los que favorecen la resolución a sea de los que estan en contr de la concesión del sufragio femenino, presento al Delegado por Iloilo, Sr. Delfin Gumban, y pido que sea reconocido.

THE PRESIDENT. Tiene la palabra el Delegado por Iloilo.

DISCURSO DEL SR. GUMBAN EN FAVOR DEL PROYECTO DE RESOLUTION

SR. GUMBAN. Señor Presidente Y Caballeros de esta Convencion: La cuestion de la franquicia politica de la mujer que se ventila en esta augusta asamblea, puede mirarse al traves de tres prismas diferentes. Los romanticos la consideran algo asi como una eclosion libertadora del mujerio moderno que pugna por la conquista de una mayor efloreccencia politica, cuya culminacion cumbre de la reivindicacion femenina del Cristianismo.

Los academicos agarrandose a la filosofia de la igualdad espiritual entre la mujer el el hombre, manejan el metodo aprioristico, la relacion de efecto y causa; asi como los anijos postulados politicos, de, impuesto sin representacion, igualdad ante la ley y gobierno sin el consentimiento de los gobernados.

2014

Y un tercer grupo, sin el calido romanticismo de la edad moza, porque las trajedias de la vida ahondaron su egoismo familiar, su concepcion puritana del honor congugal, divorciadode toda hipotesis empirica porque ha palpado la realidad del hogar mismo, no quiere armarse de lanzas quijotescas para batir gigante en este asunto practico de los molinos de viento.

No me levanto en esta tribuna para repetir las alabanzas que se merece la mujer filipina, encalzando sus bellas virtudes sus nobles cualidades ciudadanas; ni tampoco quiero recorrer a las regiones de la metafisica para elaborar una tesis academica an apoyo de misactitud, Entiendo que esta es Asamblea, del pueblo donde aplpita sobre la eclosion del romanticismo politica por encima del estadismo empirico y teorizante, el sentido comun de la multitud--la experiencia del ciudadano que paga y sufre, la observacion reflexiva del padre de familia que gurarda en su corazon un sentimiento netamente filipino, severo, intransigente en sumo grado, cuando se trate del honor de la herman, de la esposa, de la hija o de la nieta.

Señor Presidente: como Delegado del pueblo y como padre de familia, levanto mi voz para defender la santidad delhogar filipino; me uno al coro de los acerrimos paladines del verdadero femenino; porque entiendo que el femenismo verdd, puro y sincero, no transige con el llamado sufragio femenino que pueda engolfar a la mujer en el todo de la politica barata; lo cual, en ultimo analisis, no seria mas que la masculinizacion politica de la mujer como un abierto y fragante atentado a su dulce espiritualidad y la estabilidad de la institucion familiar.

Es que hay dos grandes instituciones tutelares en que se asientan la familia y la nacion.

El hogar, asilo de la santidad familiar, reconoce, sobretodo, en nuestro pais, el patronato tutelar de la mujer. Ella es la reina soberana, la diosa arbitra de los destinos de la prole.

2015

Pretendeis todavia arrancar a esa diosa de los altares de los suyos, vistiendola con harapos de calle, en m edio de la apoteosis tinezca de la turba electorera?

Porque la politica, digan lo que quieran, puede ser buena en sus efectos; pero, es verdad como el templo, que no es siempre buena en sus procedimientos. El que quiere medrar en la politica no puede escoger a gusto las consecuencias.

Muy experimentados politicos, familiarizados en los jjegos de cubilete, con habilidad para cambiar de posturas de saltijmbanqui, no tiene la paciencia de Job y pierden sus estribos oyendo a una sarta de embustes que la indilga un orador callejero Porque no es un secreto para nadie que aqui, como cualquier otra parte del mundo, se puede hacer de la politica, como de su capa un sayo, apelando a las tacticas de pasquin, al libelo y a la calumnia para producir ungolpe electoral.

Y vais a permitir que ese lodo que ha manchado vuestra frente en el triste curso de vuestra vida politica, entre por los umbrales francos de vuestro hogar y manchiàle la faz risueña y limpida de los seres mas caros para vosotros?

Podeis permitir que ese incendio que ha devorado prestigios, honores y haciendas en las calles, con el combustible que fabrican las tribunas populacheras de esquina, proyecte su exhalacion destructora a la ultima herencia intacte que os queda en casa, poniendo una mecha a vuestro lado, que pueda volar de un momento hasta nuestros intimos secretos de alcoba?

Podesis acaso sacrificar vuestro hondo prejuicio moral, arraigado en nuestro modo de ser, celosos por excelencia, contemplando contolerancia de politica avezado en lides de esta clase, la frescura iconoclasta del enemigo, descuartizando los defectos de su esposa o de su hija?

El enemigo siempre prefiere atacar al punto debil del contrincante. Sabeis bien donde esta el punto debil de la mujer.

Este es el amor, ese sentimiento que se explaya y se magnifica bajo el velo del secreto.

Y quereis que vuestra vida intima, el relicario de vuestros santos afectos, a vente el viento de la publicidad barata y sea el libro abierto de las masas despreocupadas?

He aqui, Caballeros de esta Convencion, las interrogaciones de plomo que gravitan sobre nuestra conciencia de padre, de esposo y de hermano.

Si la mujer, dulce compañera del hombre, quiere por amor, participar los servicios del estado, bienvenida sea. Pero que se mantenga en su plenitud el misterio de su femenidad.

Puede ir al estrado porque tiene corazon para sentir los dolores de la injusticia y del crimen; al profesorado porque ha nacido para mamantar a los hombres del porvinir; a los hospitales, a las instituciones del amor, angle de caridad, comprende mejor las tragedias humanas.

Pero hasta no me aqui. Que no franquee los protales del circo, donde gladiadores masculinos suelen exhibir sus desnudeces morales, ensañarse los instintos vengetaivos del hombr del la selva, en lo mas algido de la lucha electoraro. Que no pase el portico de la avenida tumultuaria que conduce al escenario con su crudo realismo iconoclasta: poniendo en el frontispicio constitucional leas siguientes rotundas y expresivas palabras:

PARA CABALLEROS, SOLAMENTE.

Sr. Presidente, alguien ha dicho que la politica es un jego de equilibrio, y muchas veces como en la diplomacia , requiere hasta duplicidad. Para ganar una elección, por ejemplo, se pne en juego cierta estrategia. Y claro esta las estrategias no se dan al anemigo, se conservan como asecretos de Estado, algo asi como tacticas de cancilleria, en que se dice una cosa y se fragua lo contrario.

Ahora bien. Vias a permitir que nuestras mujeres curtidas en la fragua de la mas severa disciplina familiar, tengan

para sus esposas o pares, ciertas reservas mentales, por lealtad al partido en que militan?

Nuestram institucion familiar es de las mas solidas y consagra como razon de su estabilidad moral, la supremacia del jefe de familia. Si la esposa o la hija guarda respeto a la opinion del marido o padres, su intervencion en los comicios es superlua; no rindiria el provecho que se espera con el otorgamiento del sufragio femenino. Si estan en desacuerdo, se pone en peligro la estabilidad de la familia y la integridad del hogar filipino.

Lo que no puede comprender, Sr. Presidente, que mientras por un lado, estamos estudiando la viabilidad del voto obligatorio porque muchos electores varones no acuden a los comicios generales por falta de interes en los asuntos publicos; por otro, hay un sector de la opinion, muy respetable por cierto, que esta rompiendo lanzas por el sufragio feminino, cuando las mismas mujeres no demuestran interes para conquistar dicho derecho politico.

De que hay que decir, una vez mas que el movimiento por el sufragio femenino en Filipinas, no tiene caracter general. Es un movimiento esporadico, localizado en algunas capitales de provincias y en Manila solamente.

Y aqui mismo en Manila, cuantas sufragistas tenemos?

Hasta se puede contar con los dedos.

Y tres golondrinas no hacen verano....

Por tanto, S". Presidente, registro mi voto a favor de la proposicion, porque aprecio el feminismo veradad, en contraposicion de la masculinizacion politica de la mujer filipina.

MR. ABELLA. Mr. President, the next speaker against the resolution is Delegate Vinzons.

RESOLVED, THat the right of suffrage be granted to male citizens only.

2018

MR. President and gentlemen of the convention:

The question now before us for consideration is one which calls for arguments qhich are the time-worn and hackneyed. It is an age-old subject dating as far back as the time of Pluto and debated upon for generation after generation until no one fan daim a novolty of reasoning or a new principle of logic. It was the dream of the Greek philosopher when in his republic he gave to women equal rights with men. It was in the mind of the modern German philosopher Nietzsche when XXI he wrote with keen sarcasm: "Progress is writ large on all woman's banners and hanneretes; but one can actually see her going back." In Athens in Rome they gathered in the Roman forum much to the consternation of the Consuls as a protest against injustice to their sex. The twentieth century women wit her enlarged world of action is a far cay from her Greek or Roman sister. She has triumphed in the unequal combat for sex equality, and in this age I say with great truth that the grant of suffrage to woman is the rule and its withdrawal has become the exception.

In this country where woman suffrage movemnt has been gaining force since its initiation in 1901, it is a surprise that the question of woman suffrage is not yet a settled one. Since the World War most civilized countries have granted women suffrage ujtil now there are about forty-two of them. In the United States, Wyoming was the first to grant suffrage in 1869 followed by Colorado, Idaho and Utah. Washington, California, Arizona, Kansas, Oregon, Montana and Nevada adopted the same innovation from 1900 to1914. Themovement in the United States gained impetuous until Congress adopted the Nineteenth Amendment in 1919 which was ratified by three fourths of the States in 1920. In Great Britain the women suffrage movement was cojducted with parsadise, riots and violents demosntrations on the part of the women. The Reform Bill of 1918 in England

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enfranchised women under thirty years of age, though men voted at twenty-one. The equal Franchise Act of 1928, was the fianl political emancipation of the English women. The other countries of the World where woman suffrage is in force are: Denmark 1915, Norway, 1913, Sweden, 1919, Netherlands, 1919 Germany 1918, Lithuania 1922, Austria, 1930, Iretuania 1921, Czecoslovakia 1920, Free City of Danzig 1920, Spain 1931 and Siam. Besiade these, municpals suffrage is granted in Mexico, India, Belgium, South Africa, Rumania and Italy. The British dependencies have woman suffrage. After a survey of the world's situation, is there any reason why the Philippines should withold suffrage from the women? Are the women of this country of a lower state of mentality than the women of other countries, or is it because we have not overcome all prejudice that disappeared with the coming of the machines?

I am of the sincere belief that the women of this country should be granted suffrage. On my part would want to show before the members of this Assembly.

First, That considerable progress in the evolution of woman has qualified her to assume the right to vote;

second, that the grant woman suffrage is a problem of political justice and is in accord with the principles of democracy;

third, that woman suffrage is a force for good government, because it will train the women in the workings of democracy, and because women will ennoble and purify politics;

fourth, that the woman habe shown the desire for suffrage as addidenced by their unceasing fight for it;,and

fifth, beconuse the constitution that we are now framing will have to be submitted to a plebiscite that will include women voters, and the Denial of suffrage to them may arouse a hostile vote against the constitution and consequently defeay of independence.

Politics has long been considered as a man's sole prerogative. His dominance in the home, the church and the state has been a recognized fact throughout the ages. But with the advance of civilizacion, the woman's position in the home and society has been greatly altered. She is no longer the fragile flower that withers at the touch. Though she is an object of inspiration that must be enshrieved, yer that shirne is not a goden cage but the morne free air of the world that know no bar. She has become dominant influence in the home ever the children, she engages in commer, in mental labor and in the learned professions. She is at the vortex of a changing world, where the concept of woman as a chattel that may be disposed of has been changed to one where she is considered a helpmeet, a counsellor of the home, a guniness partner, and a part of the citizen of the state. Even in the long yeers that saw the limitation of the right of woman, she has nevertheless shown her capacity in government, in literature, in sicience, and almost al human endeavor. Do we need to cite Maria Teresa who laid the foundation of the Austrian empaire, or Catherine, the great who made Russia a world power, or Madam Roland who was the soul of the French Revolution, or Quenn Elizabeth whose reign was the golden age of the English literature and of naval achievement, or Queen Isabela of catile who financed Columbus in his discoveryof the New World and effected the conquest of Granada or Queen Vixtoria the greates of English sovereign, or Quen Christina of Sweden whose reign was noted for her patronage of learning and science? Do we need here to mention the immortal Madame Currie, discoverer of radium and radio activity, or Maria Cunitz, Silesian astornomer? Do we need to mention her the achievements of Rosa Bonheus in art, of Harriet Martinau on the stage, or of Elizabeth Browning in poetry? Here in our own country, is the mention of great women personage like Pr Princisa Urduja of ancient Pangasinan, considered by Friar O-

doric one of the

2021

doric one of the best of rulers, Queen Sima of Mindanao of who sacrificed her life for her country, or Tandang Sora of the revolutionary days, not suf icient to sway the anti-sufragets to give women the vote?

Women have become lawyers, physicians, dispensers of law, governors, of state, why do we still deny form them political rights?

In sup ort of our second contention that equal effrage will promote democracy, we wish to quote President Taft: "The best goberment," he said, "in the sense of the one most certain to provide for and protect the rights and governmental needs of every class, is that one in which every class has a voice. In recognition of this, the tendency from earliest time has been the enlargement of the electorate to include as many as possible of those governed." Democracy has been the history of the struggle by the people against the ruling class, as a means of protecting themselves agai st the tyranny of those in power whose interest or caprices might lead to their oppresion. The growth of modern democracy is responsible for the development of the idea of "one citizens," one vote." Women are citizens equally with men, as in the Scripture it was said, "God created man in his own image; male and female created them." What should political achievements be measured by if not by terms of human well being? What is government for except to promote the security and education and happiness of the units that composes it. The American Revolution was a fought wit the wary cry, "Taxation without representation," and why should the women not fi fight for the vote when they are owners of property that are subject to taxes? In our civil law women are classified among idiots and crimi nals, why should they not imist that liber, ty fraternity equality, should means a vote for every man and wo men and every man and women and every man and woman an equal

2022

vote, in order that such odious discriminations against the sex could be corrected? If we believe in the Principles of democracy--and we are sure that opponents of suffrage to women when such grant will enlarge the frontier of democracy? It may be argued that suffrage is not a right but a burden, that only small proportion of the inhabitants of nation enjoy this privilege. To answer this argument by saying that it is the aim of democracy to give equal rights to men and women, but although it is impossible yet to extend enfranchisement of all the inhabitants in its ideal. The expense is a necessary incident in the increase of the electorate but such expense is more than compensated by the benefits that will accrue to the country at large.

We contend in the third place that woman suffrage will be a force for good government. Our argument in this will be based not on more theories but in the actual working of woman suffrage in the United States. Human nature is the same everywhereand what has been the experiences of the United States in this matter will be the experience in the Philippines. I want to quote first from a statement of Governor Hoyt of Wyoming, the state that first adopted woman suffrage in the United States: "Under woman suffrage we have better laws, better officers, better institution, better morals and higher social condition in general that could otherwise exist. Not one of the predicted evils such as loss of native delicacy and distrubance of human relation, has followed its trend."

"In the election of 1894" according to Joyn Shatfroth of Columbia, " agreat percent of women voted than men, and instead of their being contaminated by any influence of bad nature at the polls, the effect has been that there are no loafers, there are no persons of questionable character stumbling around the polls. The practical effects of woman suffrage will be to in-

ject to polition an element that is independent and does not have to keep a consistent record with the party."

It was the suffrage that gave many thousnds of American women their first practical understanding of the meaning of democracy, according to Helen Robinson. "Their struggle for the vote was far more than a struggle for the vote. It was a struggle for the sould of democracy. The equal suffrage movement is the most democratic movement t at has ever swept American, surpassing the labor movement because it knows no class boundaries."

In the words of another writer, "it may be taken as foregone conclusion that modification of our constitution, due to the participation of women in civil and political affairs will be i the direction of social putiry, effective prohibition, industrial justice, national morality and world peace. Women play a very important part in politics in America,. With her instinctive moral sense, woman is certain to be a decisive factor in the the solution of strictly moral issues."

As a prosf of the practical working of the woman suffrage we desire to mention the municipal election of Chicago in 1915 According to the National Municipal Review of July, 1915, " The two leading candidates for the Republican nomination were Wm. Hale Thompson, since elected mayor, and chief Justice Harry Olson, of the Chicago Municipal court, the diffusion candidates endorsed by the progressive leader by Prof. A. Merriam, who has been for many years the leader of the good government forde in Chicago, and by the element in the Republican party. As t which was the better candidate there could be no possible questionWomen gave a decisive pluralityof more than 7,7000 t the better candidate while the men gave a still larger plurality to the less desirable candidate. 55% of the women voting for Judge Olson, but the men plurality for Thompson was large

enough to outweigh the women's vote. If the men had stayed away from the polls on the date of the prim ry and left the women the business of chosing a candidate, the vote of Chicago wold have been different."

To cite concrete achievements in legislation of woman suffrage in the United States we desire to mention the Sheppard Towner Maternity Act of 1921; the independent citizenship for Married Women Act of 1922; the approval of the proposed amendment prohibiting child labor, and the repeal of the Prohibition Law. From the experience in the United States we can make the following conclusion:

(1) Woman suffrage improves the tone of politics;

(2) Women suffrage provides an independent voting element;

(3) Woman suffrage strenthenen the cause temperance and promotes social purity.

Our fourth contention is that the women of the Philippines have sufficiently demonstrated their desire for suffrage. A history of the femenist movement began in the yearl 900 when Constancia Poblets moved for the pacification of the Islands and the emancipationo of women. The association Feminista headed by Miss concepKcion Valdez de Calderon advocated for social and Mendoza Guazon and Mrs. Teodoro Kalaw was principally for suffrage. A publication issued as early as 1901 sponsored the femenist movement. At present we have national organization of women like the Federation of women club., the association of the University women, the High Femina and the women's Clubs are in favor of woman's suffrge and their representatives appeared before the committee. To contond that the women are not desirous of suffrage is an unchivalrous travesty.

Our last and final contnetion concerns this constitution

that we are now framing itself. The tydings McDuffie law provides that upon approval by the president of the United States the Constitution will be submitted to a pelbiscite by the quelified voters of the Philippines. An act of the Ninth Philippine Legislature granted to the women the right of suffrage from January 1, 1935. Therefore, unless the present legislature will repeal the law before its adjournment the women will participate in the plebiscite onthe Constitution. Without in anyway expressing the fear that the women will lack in patriotism by voting against the comstitition bedause suffrage has been denied them in that instrument, ww desire to call the attention of this convention t o the fact that after this constitution is rejected by the people according to the Tydings-McDuffie Law such rejections shall be taken to the vote against independence. In the hands of the women of the Philippines is a thing of danger to which any way resort in desperation. If we review the history of women suffrage movement in other countries which were marked by demonstrations of violence and sex hatred, we would think these first before taking the established purpose in the resolution now pending for your consideration.

Gentlemen of the Convention: It is the experience in all civilized nations that the grant of suffrage to men is inevitable. The current of all events is surging with great force thowrads advance and progress in the democratic principles. Is it the sense of this convention that we should go against the tide and retrogress half a century or a century behind this advancing world? Your answer I hope will be a vindication of the capacity of the Filipino men to accept the dictates of progress.

SR. CONEJERO. Señor Presidente, para unas preguntas al orador.

EL VICE PRESIDENTE. El orador puede contestar, si le place.

SR. VINZONS. Si, señor.

SR. CONEJERO. S. S. al final de su discurso, hable de riots, etc. Debemos entender esas palabras de S. S. como una amenaza a nosotros, si no aprobamos el sufragio en la constitution?

MR. VINZONS. It's as a threat, Mr. President, but as a mere possibility, if not as a remote possibility, I say that it might happen.

SR. CONEJERO. Vamos a otro punto. Podemos saber de su señoria en cuantas campañas politicas ha tomado parte?

MR. VINZONS. I have not taken part in any purely political campaign because I say that in the campaign for the delegates i was not a case of dirty politics as it is understood but of clean national politics.

SR. CONEJERO. De modo que S. S. solamente puede hablar de la campña para delegado y no de ninguna otra campaña politica, por que no ha tenido ninguna?

MR. VINZONS. Not because, Mr. President, I have not been a candidate in previous elections, I have not seen politics as it is in the raw. On the other hand, I have observed politics since I was a toddling tot, and I could say with the guarantee of my personal conviction that I have observed the situation in politics recently in the communities of this country.

SR. CONEJERO. No es verdad que durante los tiempos de la politica, precisamente en provincias, S. S. estaba aqui en Manila, porque estaba estudiando (Risas.)

MR. VINZONS. No, Mr. President political campaigns

happen to occur during the vacation time and I had therefore sufficient opportunity to observe the workings of practical politics.

SR. CONEJERO. A que necesidad el sufragio femenino?

MR. VINZONS. There is an urgent necessity for human suffrage, Mr. President, we are at present embarking on a new experiment in our national life. We are supposed to establish here a government republican in form, democratic in principle and therefore representative of all classes and interests. If, according to President Taft, the aim of democracy is to give representation to every class and to every interest and that the ideal of democracyis to enlarge the electorate, then , Mr. President, there is an urgent necesity of woman suffrage.

SR. CONEJERO. Ahora que s. s. ha hablado de la democracia, y de que el sufragio femenino es una de los puntos que debe tener esa democracia, podría explicarme que conecion tiene esa democracia con Catalina de Rusia, con Isabel de España, citadas por s. s.?

MR. VINZONS. I mentioned those instances, Mr. President, not to connect them with democracy, but to lay my foundation from democracy because women must exercise the vote intellengtly; and I want to prove by thos illustrations that they are entitled to the right to vote.

SR. PRESIDENTE INTERINO. La hora del Delegado por Camarines Sur ha expirado ya.

MOCION ROMERO

SR. ROMERO Señor Presidente.

EL SR. PRESIDENTE. INTERINO. Señor Delegado.

SR. ROMERO. Habiendo hablado ya tres oradores por cada lado, el Comite de Reglamentos pide que el debate sobre la question principal se limite hasta el lunes.

SR. ABONO. Mr. President, I move that the debate be closed.

EL SR. PRESIDENTE. INTERINO. La mocion del Delegado por Negros Oriental es preferente.

ENMIENDA PERFECTO A LA MOCION NOMERO ES APROBADA

SR. PERFECTO. Señor Presidente, para una enmeinda a la mocion.

SR. PRESIDENTE. Puede el Delegado por Manila formular su enmienda

SR. PERFECTO. Yo pido que en lugar del lunes, sea el marte.

SR. ROMERO. Accepto la enmienda, señor Presidente.

EL SR. PRESIDENTE. INTERINO. Hay objecion por parte de la Asamblea? (Silencio) La Mesa no oye ninguna. Queda aprobada.

LEVANTAMIENTO DE LA SESION

EL SR. ROMERO. Señor Presidente. pido que se levante la sesion hasta mañana.

EL PRESIDENTE PRO TEMPORE. Hay algun objecion a la mocion? (Silencio) La Mesa no oye ninguna. Queda aprobada.

Se levanta la sesion hasta mañana.

Eran las 6;16 p. m.